(c) what other measures Government proppse to take to check desertification?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) No, Sir. An area of 362 lakh ha. accounting to about 11% of the total geographical area suffers from desertification.

(b) So far, an area of 446 lakh ha. which is 1.23% of the total affected area has been treated under various programmes. They include, the core activities, such as land resources development, water resources development, and afforestation and pasture development.

(c) In addition to above, integrated land use development, integrated development programmes, developing drought preparedness and developing comprehensive anti-desertification programmes are proposed to check desertification in the country.

Low Yield of Indian Sheep

481. SHRI RAJENDRA PRASAD MODY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that on an average an Australian sheep yields five kgs. of wool annually, while the corresponding figure for India is barely 700 grams; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government for increasing the production of wool and improving its quality particularly in Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes Sir, but with the difference that the corresponding figure for India is about 900 grams.

(b) The Government has taken up several steps for sheep/wool development programmes in the country including the State of Rajasthan with the basic objective of increasing quality and quantity of wool as well as the body weight of the animals. The Government has taken up the following programmes:

1. Central Sheep Breeding Farm, Hissar for the production and supply of superior exotic Rams to the States.

2. The National Ram|Buck Prdouction Programme and programme for Rabbit Development. This is a Centrally Sponsored Programme under which State Departments of Animal Husbandry are provided funds.

3. The Agriculture Development Project (Including Sheep Development) with World Bank assistance is under implementation in Rajasthan State.

Agricultural Labourers in the Country

482. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Agricultural labourers in the country with State-wise details;

(b) the amount of wages they earn with details;

(c) the reasons for a large number of agricultural labourers in the State of Bihar;

(d) whether there is any scheme to provide better employment opportunities to the labourers in Bihar; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) A Statement showing the Agricultural Labourers and Daily Wage Rates of Unskilled Agricultural Labour is annexed. (See below).

(c) The prevalence of high poverty level coupled with lack of occupational

avenues outside the farm sector in Bihar has led to higher concentration of agricultural labourers in the States.

(d) and (e) In the Eighth Five Year Plan, the Government of Bihar has given high priority for generating employment opportunities in the State to remove poverty. Various developments programmes have been initiated in this regard. Under the Comprehensive Agricultural Development Programme, the Central Government with the World Bank assistance has initiated Agricultural Development Projects (ADPs) in various States including Bihar. These ADPs are multisectoral projects with investments not only in agriculture, but also in related sectors like rural road, minor irrigation, horticulture, agro-forestry, animal husbandry etc., thereby enhancing better employment opportunities under agriculture and allied sectors.

Statement

State-wise number of Agricultural Labourers and Daily Wage Rates of Unskilled Agricultural Labour

S.No.	Name of the State	Agricultural Labourers (in million) 1991	Daily Wage Rate of Unskilled Agricultural Labour (in Rs.)		
			1991-92	1992-93	1993-94 (Prov.)
1	Andhra Pradesh	11.6	21.14	24.50	25.84
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0.02	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
3	Assam	8.5	27.19	29.72	29.45
4	Bihar	9.5	22.20	22.74	25.08
5	Goa	0.04	N.A	N.A.	N.A
6	Gujarat	3.23	22.64	26.34	27.75
7	Haryana	0.9	41.57	50 12	55.00
8	Himachal Pradesh	0.06	34.63	39 53	46.37
9	Karnataka	5.0	16.84	16.33	19.63
10	Kerala	2.12	39.61	48.44	51.05
11	Madhya Pradesh	5.9	20.13	23.91	26.34
12	Maharashtra	8.3	22.86	23.83	27.91
13	Manipur	0.05	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
14	Meghalaya	0.09	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
15	Mizoram	0.009	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
16	Nagaland	0.007	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.

1	2	3	4	5	6
17	Orissa	2 9	17.37	19.77	21.33
18	Punjab	1.5	43.18	48.12	53.42
19	Rajasthan	1.4	31.10	30.78	33.97
20	Sikkim	0.01	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
21	Tamil Nadu	7.9	17.58	21.76	24.43
22	Tripura	1.9	23.58	24.21	24.50
23	Uttar Pradesh	7.8	25.15	26.93	28.07
24	Delhi	0.003	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
25	West Bengal	5.1	28.76	35.60	35.80
	ALL INDIA:	75.0	26.74	30.17	32.71

Soyabean Growing States

483. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the main Soyabean growing States;

(b) the total quantum of Soyabean produced in those States during the last three years;

(c) whether there is a vast scope to increase the production of Soyabean in Orissa;

(d) if so, the steps taken in that direction; and

(e) the detais thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) The main Soyabean growing States are Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan.

(b) The total production of Soyabean in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan for the last three years is as under :—

Production ('000 tonnes)

S.No.	State	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94 (Likely)
1	Madhya Pradesh	2092.5	2322.1	3480.0
2	Maharashtra	191.2	361.4	671.0
3	Rajasthan	130.2	333.4	370.0